



WAID
ASRAR
BELLAIRE

BATMAN VS. ROBIN



**FATHER
VS. SON**
FOR THE
**FATE
OF THE
DCU**

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

Heads or tails, Batman will lose.

A comic book illustration of Two-Face. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. His face is split vertically down the middle. The left side of his face is human, with dark hair and a serious expression. The right side is a grotesque, skeletal mask with a single yellow eye and a jagged, toothy mouth. He is holding a small, round, silver coin in his right hand, which is raised towards his face. The background is a dark, moody scene with a large, green-tinted face of a man (likely Batman) looming behind him. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and the red of the text.

**BATMAN
ONE BAD DAY
TWO-FACE #1
MARIKO TAMAKI
JAVIER FERNANDEZ
JORDIE BELLAIRE**

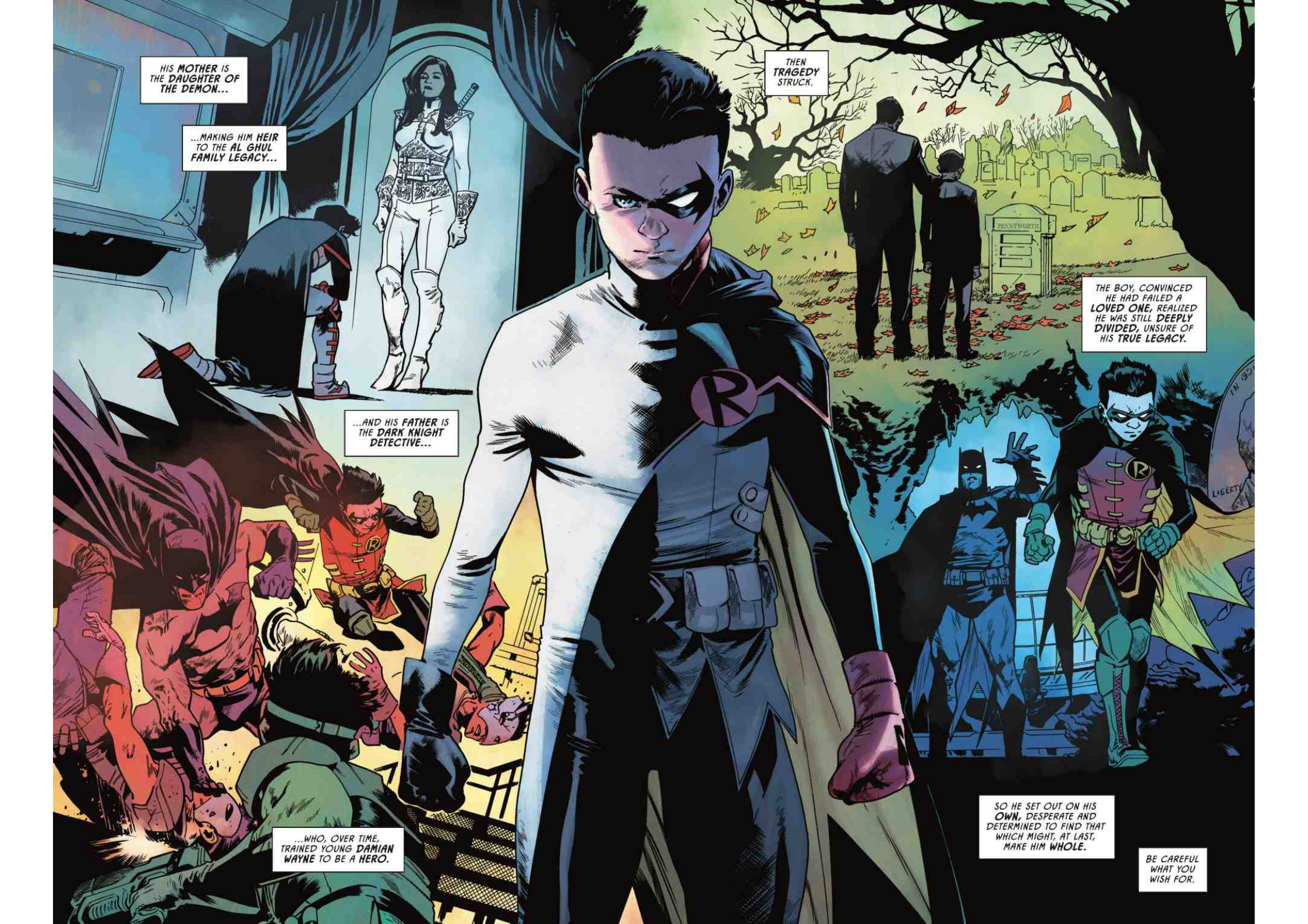


The second of eight 64-page Prestige format
specials starring the Dark Knight's
worst enemies in their best stories yet.

September



THE BOY, ROBIN,
WAS BORN OF
TWO WORLDS.



HIS MOTHER IS
THE DAUGHTER OF
THE DEMON...

...MAKING HIM HEIR
TO THE AL GHUL
FAMILY LEGACY...

THEN
TRAGEDY
STRUCK.

THE BOY, CONVINCED
HE HAD FAILED A
LOVED ONE, REALIZED
HE WAS STILL DEEPLY
DIVIDED, UNSURE OF
HIS TRUE LEGACY.

...AND HIS FATHER IS
THE DARK KNIGHT
DETECTIVE...

...WHO, OVER TIME,
TRAINED YOUNG DAMIAN
WAYNE TO BE A HERO.

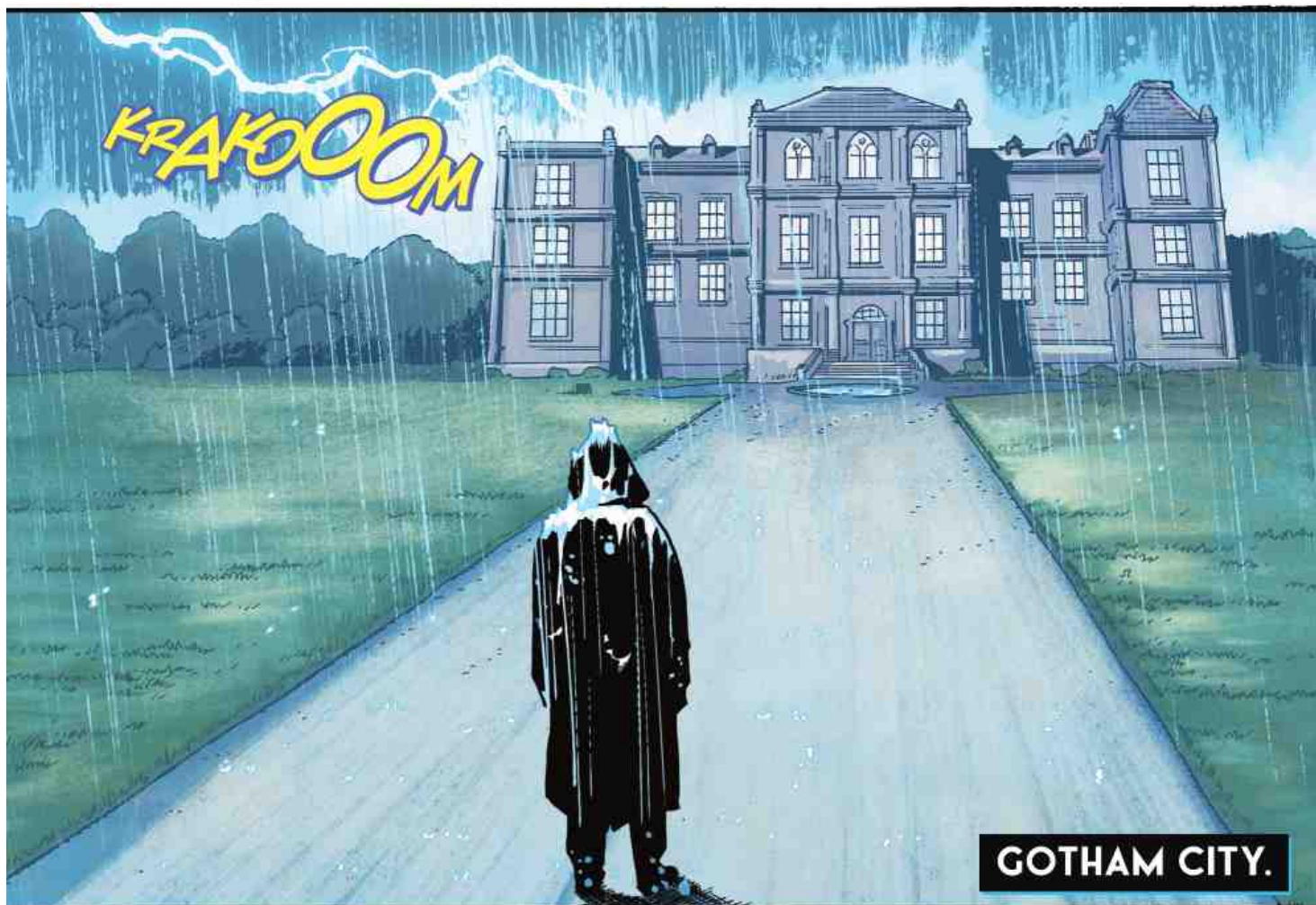
SO HE SET OUT ON HIS
OWN, DESPERATE AND
DETERMINED TO FIND THAT
WHICH MIGHT, AT LAST,
MAKE HIM WHOLE.

BE CAREFUL
WHAT YOU
WISH FOR.

WAYNE MANOR.



KRAKOOOM



GOTHAM CITY.



MADE IT HOME
JUST IN TIME TO
BEAT THE RAIN.



"HOME." A
FREUDIAN SLIP.

MOVING OUT OF WAYNE
MANOR AND INTO
GOTHAM PROPER
WAS A WISE CHOICE.

OPERATING
ADJACENT TO A
DOWNTOWN
BROWNSTONE
CERTAINLY
ACCELERATES
BATMAN'S
RESPONSE TIME.



BUT IT DEFINITELY
MEANT LEAVING
SOME MEMORIES
BEHIND.



IS THAT WHAT DREW ME HERE
TONIGHT? **NOSTALGIA?**

NO. IT'S SOMETHING FAR
STRONGER THAN THAT, BUT I
CAN'T PUT MY **FINGER** ON IT.



I SHOULD GO, BUT--I
CAN'T--PICKING UP MY KEYS
FEELS **AWKWARD** AND
REQUIRES **ACTUAL EFFORT**.



IT'S AS IF
SOMEONE OR
SOMETHING
WANTS ME
HERE, BUT
THAT'S **RIDIC--**



**CURIOUSER AND
CURIOUSER.**

IF I'M NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE...WHO
ELSE COULD
BE VISITING?





MASTER
BRUCE...

...IS IT
REALLY
YOU?

KRA
KOOO

Batman...Gotham City's Dark Knight Detective. Robin...son of Batman and heir to the al Ghul dynasty. The Boy Wonder has aspired to walk his father's path of righteousness...but his demonic lineage has been reignited. For months, Robin has traveled the world, disowned by Batman and the heroes of Gotham City. His sojourn has brought him to LAZARUS ISLAND, where an ancient evil beckons him...and a deadly magical threat from Batman's past stands poised to murder the Caped Crusader and tear the world asunder...

BATMAN vs. ROBIN

Chapter One: Reunion

MARK WAID *Writer* **MAHMUD ASRAR** *Artist*

JORDIE BELLAIRE *Colors* **STEVE WANDS** *Letters*
MAHMUD ASRAR & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN *Cover*
**JOSHUA MIDDLETON, ALEX LOZANO, JASON FABOK & BRAD
ANDERSON, LUCIO PARRILLO, BRYAN HITCH & BRAD
ANDERSON, DAVID RAPOZA, and STEVE BEACH** *Variant Covers*

DAVE WIELGOSZ *Associate Editor* **PAUL KAMINSKI** *Editor*

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

CLAYFACE

CORNELIUS
STIRK

DR. HURT

KARMA

HUGO
STRANGE

COURT
OF OWLS--

WHOEVER,
YOU ARE, THIS IS
IN UNFORGIVABLY
POOR TASTE.

ALFRED
PENNYWORTH
IS DEAD.

MASTER BRUCE,
I ASSURE YOU I
AM NOT--

OH, DEAR
LORD!

MASTER DAMIAN! HE'S IN
TERRIBLE DANGER! BANE
AND THAT MONSTROUS MAN
PRETENDING TO BE YOUR
FATHER--

--THEY HAVE
HIM CAPTIVE
UPSTAIRS!* WE
HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING!

INTERESTING. THAT'S THE FINAL
THING ALFRED WOULD HAVE
REMEMBERED. NO IMPOSTOR
COULD HAVE KNOWN THAT.

*BACK IN BATMAN:
CITY OF BANE. --PK

STILL--

CALM DOWN.
DAMIAN'S ALL RIGHT.
WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
HAPPENED MONTHS AND
MONTHS AGO.

BUT BANE
SNAPPED YOUR...
ALFRED'S...NECK. WE
CREMATED HIM, FOR
GOD'S SAKE.

HOW COULD
HE--YOU--SUDDENLY
REAPPEAR OUT OF
NOWHERE?



ALFRED PENNYWORTH WAS MY **BEST FRIEND**. MY SURROGATE **FATHER**. I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO BELIEVE THIS IS SOMEHOW REALLY HIM.

FOR THE NEXT HOUR, I PUT THE MAN THROUGH A **BATTERY OF QUESTIONS** ABOUT THINGS ONLY **ALFRED** COULD **KNOW**.





HE HIMSELF SUGGESTS THAT WE GO DOWN TO THE CAVE FOR A MEDICAL EXAMINATION, WHICH IS PRECISELY WHAT ALFRED WOULD PROPOSE.

HE KNOWS THE ENTRY IS BEHIND THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK IN THE STUDY.

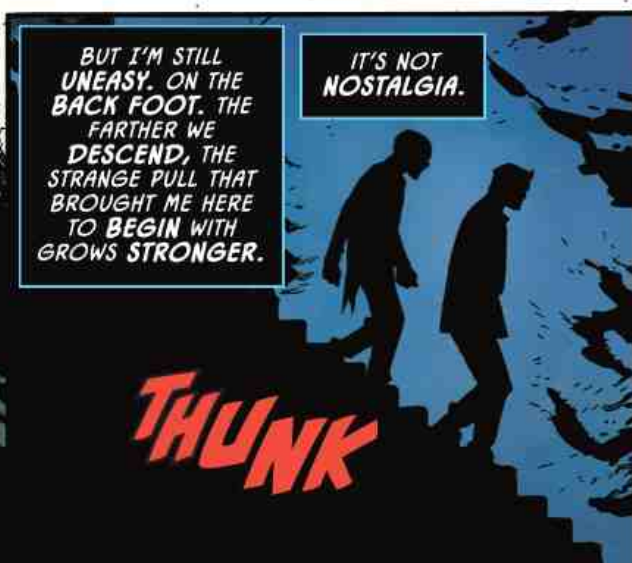


HE KNOWS IT SWINGS ASIDE WHEN THE CLOCK HANDS ARE SET TO 10:47, THE TIME OF MY PARENTS' MURDER.



I ACHE FOR THIS TO BE REAL. TO BE FOLLOWING A TRUSTED FRIEND...

...RATHER THAN BEING DANTE, LED BY VIRGIL INTO HELL.



BUT I'M STILL UNEASY. ON THE BACK FOOT. THE FARTHER WE DESCEND, THE STRANGE PULL THAT BROUGHT ME HERE TO BEGIN WITH GROWS STRONGER.

IT'S NOT NOSTALGIA.

THUNK



IT'S SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING I'VE DEALT WITH ENOUGH TO KNOW THE TASTE IN THE AIR.

WELL, WELL...

LOOK
WHAT THE *BAT*
DRAGGED IN.

MAGIC.

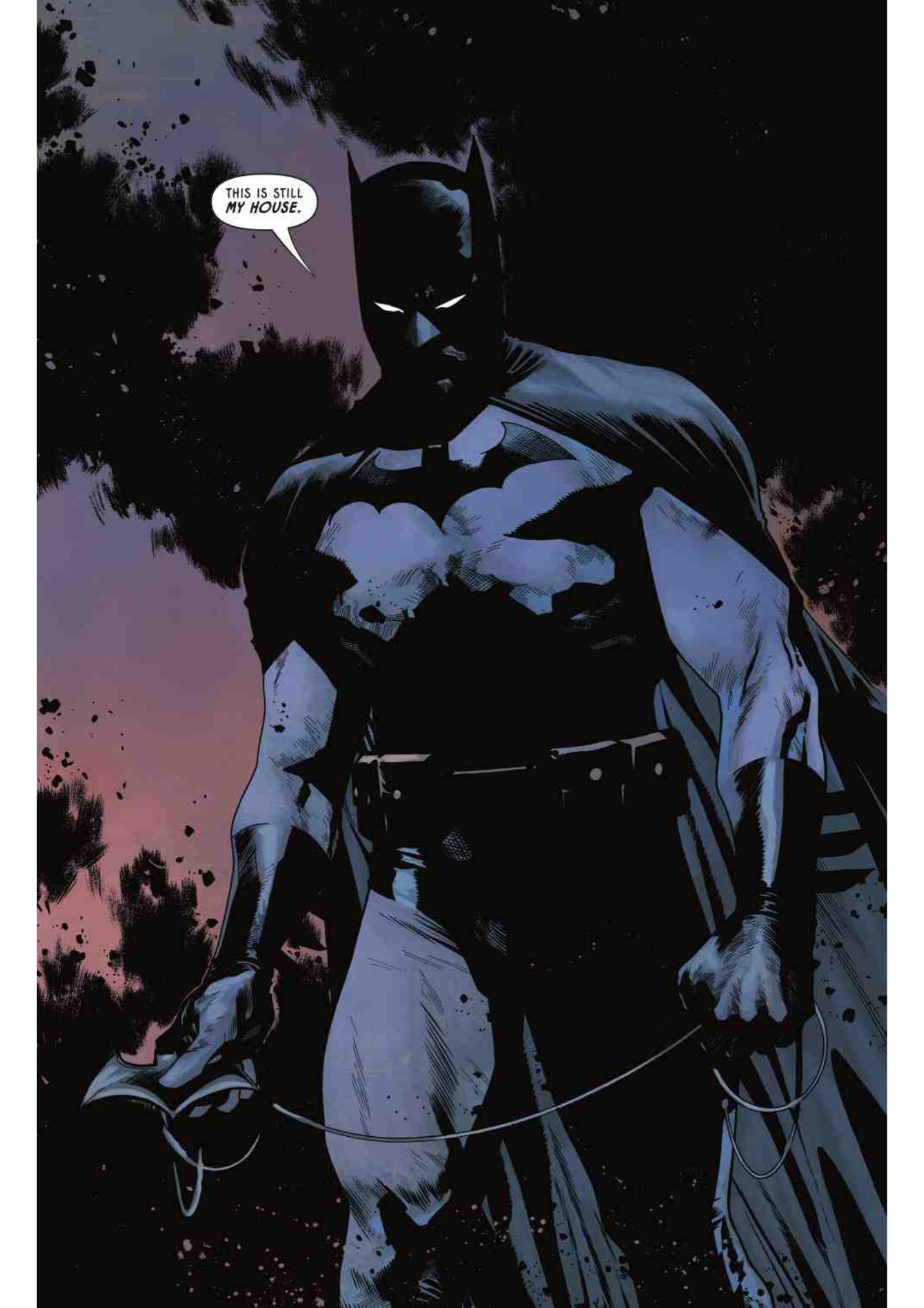


THOOM

HE GOT
CLEAR.

FIND HIM AND
BRING HIM TO ME.
THAT'S AN ORDER.

I GIVE THE
ORDERS HERE,
DAMIAN, NOT
YOU.

A full-page comic book illustration of Batman. He is shown from the waist up, wearing his iconic suit with a large bat emblem on the chest. He is holding a black cowl in his right hand, with a thin wire extending from it. The background is dark and smoky, with a reddish-pink glow on the left side. A speech bubble is located in the upper left corner.

THIS IS STILL
MY HOUSE.



I KNOW
MY SON.
IT'S DAMIAN,
ALL RIGHT--

TCH.

THIS? IT
WAS YOURS.
UNTIL TODAY.
NOW IT'S
MINE.

--AND MORE. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN
EGOCENTRIC... RUTHLESS...IMPATIENT
TO REPLACE ME...BUT THIS...

HE'S TURNED. I NEED TO
KNOW WHY, AND BY WHOM.

DAMIAN, THAT'S
ENOUGH. I--

HEH.
BATARANG
SNARE. YOUR
GO-TO. YOU
INSULT ME.

TIM?

KRAKOOM

THE OTHER TWO BOYS
ARE SOMEHOW IN
DAMIAN'S THRALL.

THE KID IN THE GLASSES IS
TIM HUNTER, THE WORLD'S
GREATEST SORCERER--
SOMEDAY. HE STILL HAS
A LOT TO LEARN--

...
WHERE'D
HE--



--NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS HOW TO FOCUS HIS SPELLS WITHOUT SOMETHING TO SERVE AS A MAGIC WAND.



ME.

JAKEEM THUNDER
COMMANDS A MYSTIC GENIE
WHO LIVES NOT IN A BOTTLE
BUT IN AN ORDINARY PEN.
WITH A MAGIC PHRASE--



OH, THIS
SHOULD BE
FUN.

SO
COOL.

--THE GENIE
OBEYS
JAKEEM'S
EVERY
WHIM--



--NO MATTER
HOW MAD.

RIDE 'EM,
COWBOY!

SIC 'IM.

GRRRAWRRRR





DAMIAN--
OR WHATEVER'S
SPEAKING *THROUGH*
YOU--STOP THIS
RIGHT NOW!

YOU'RE
PUTTING THESE
BOYS IN
DANGER!

SINCE
WHEN IS *THAT*
A CONCERN?
THAT'S YOUR
HOBBY.

YOU ADOPT
INNOCENT CHILDREN,
AND THEN, RATHER THAN
LET THEM LEAD *NORMAL*,
INNOCENT LIVES--

--YOU
DRAFT THEM INTO
A *SECRET WORLD*
OF *SHADOWS AND*
VIOLENCE!

WHO
DOES
THAT?



SNAP



SOMEONE WHO HONORS THEIR NEED FOR JUSTICE.

DAMIAN, WE BOTH KNOW HOW THIS FIGHT IS GOING TO END. SURRENDER AND EXPLAIN YOURSELF, BEFORE--



BEFORE WHAT?



BEFORE YOU PLEAD ME TO DEATH?

LET'S HURRY THIS ALONG, SHALL WE? MOTHER HAS HER OWN SINS TO PAY FOR.



SO COOKAFF KAFFKAFF--

FOOF!

THERE. THAT'S BOTH PUPPETS DOWN, WITH AS LITTLE FORCE AS NECESSARY GIVEN THEY'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.



I ONLY HOPE I'M NOT INSTINCTIVELY PULLING MY PUNCHES.



HRKKKK!

IT'S TIME
TO PUT YOU OUT
OF *MY MISERY*,
DETECTIVE.

"YOU'RE MY
SON AND I LOVE YOU,
BUT SOMETIMES I TRULY
DON'T LIKE YOU." THAT'S
WHAT YOU SAID TO
ME, REMEMBER?

I'VE GROWN TO
HATE YOU AS YOU
HATE ME. YOU LEFT
ME *ON MY OWN*.
REJECTED ME.

I NEVER--

→NGGH!←

WHY? BECAUSE I HAVE *AL GHUL*
BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH MY
VEINS. BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE
TAKING ORDERS.

BECAUSE
YOU BLAME ME
FOR ALFRED'S
DEATH.

THAT
ISN'T TRUE.

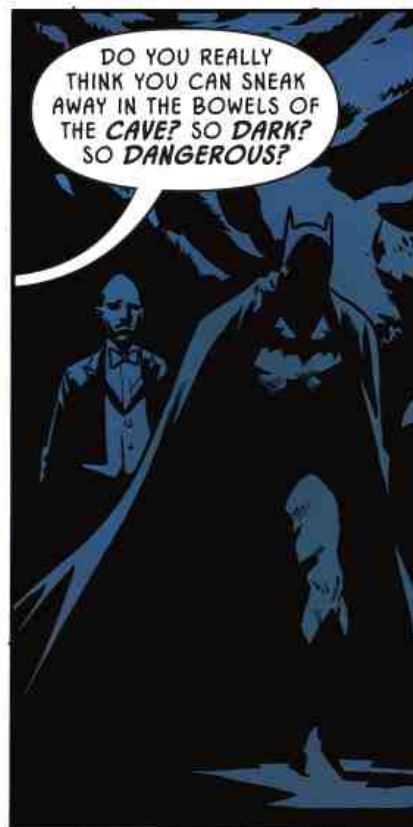
THERE'S NO NEED
FOR BLAME AT
ALL.

MASTER DAMIAN,
I *BEG* OF YOU...
COME TO YOUR
SENSES.

WHAT...?







YOU'RE ON A
TREACHEROUS
PATH, FATHER.

UNMAPPED,
AS I RECALL.



NARROW.
TWISTING.



BOTTOMLESS PITS
EVERYWHERE.





ALFRED!

AAAA!

I THOUGHT I COULD GET PAST OUR *DISAGREEMENTS*, FATHER. I THOUGHT THERE WAS *SOME WAY* TO BE THE SON YOU WANTED.

YOU ARE THE--

BUT I *FOUND* SOMETHING. SOMETHING FROM YOUR *OWN PAST* THAT FINALLY OPENED MY EYES.



END OF THE LINE, FATHER.

I'M SURE YOU'RE *DISAPPOINTED* BY SUCH A *BANAL* CHOICE OF WEAPON.

BUT IT'S SIMPLY TOO *FITTING* TO PASS UP.



MY *PARTING* GIFT TO YOU, FATHER. *CLOSURE*.

THE BATMAN'S LIFE *ENDS* AS IT *BEGAN*.



I ONLY WISH YOU WERE WEARING *PEARLS*.





BRUCE!
TELL ME THE BOY
DIDN'T--

SAVED...NNGHH...
BY MILLIMETERS...AND
BY A DOCK LADDER
I'VE NOT THOUGHT
ABOUT FOR YEARS.

⇒KOFF⇒
⇒KOFF⇒

I ADDED...POLYMERIC FABRIC
TO...THE CAPE LAST WEEK.
STRONGER...THAN KEVLAR.

IT SLOWED DAMIAN'S
⇒KOFF⇒ ENHANCED
ROUNDS JUST ENOUGH
FOR THE SUIT'S SHIELDING
TO DO ITS JOB.

SOMETHING HAS
DAMIAN. SOMETHING
EVIL. EVEN IN WAR,
HE NEEDS OUR
HELP.

I KNOW.
AND I'LL
TAKE IT
FROM
HERE.

LET'S GET
YOU TO
SAFETY.

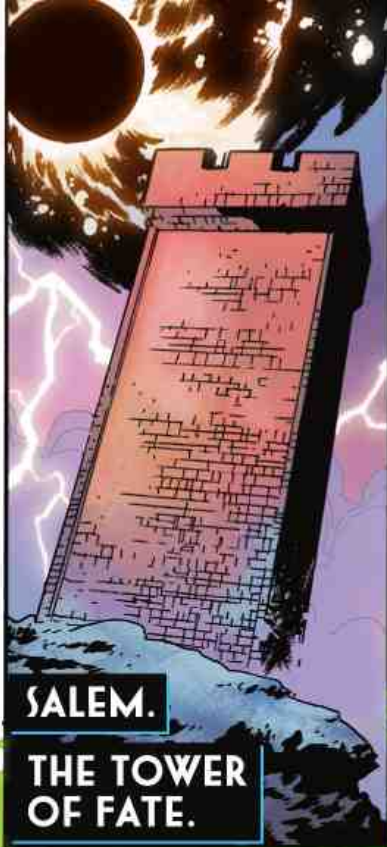
BUT--

ALFRED, I CAN'T PUT YOU AT RISK.
THINK OF YOUR DAUGHTER. YOUR
GRANDDAUGHTER. I WON'T LET
THEM LOSE YOU TWICE.

BRUCE, LET
ME ASSIST--

OUT OF
THE QUESTION.
I CAN'T KEEP
YOU SAFE.





SALEM.
THE TOWER
OF FATE.







...PLUS A HANDFUL
OF **GAS PELLETS**
AND **EXPLOSIVES**
AND A **MINIATURE**
LASER.



ASSUMING BAT-FAMILY
COMMUNICATIONS ARE
COMPROMISED, WE'LL
NEED TO STAY OFF THE
GRID...

...AND THIS IS
CURRENTLY THE
SUM TOTAL OF
OUR AVAILABLE
EQUIPMENT.

AND A...
KEY OF SOME
SORT?



MANAGED
TO GRAB IT
AMIDST ALL THE
CHAOS.

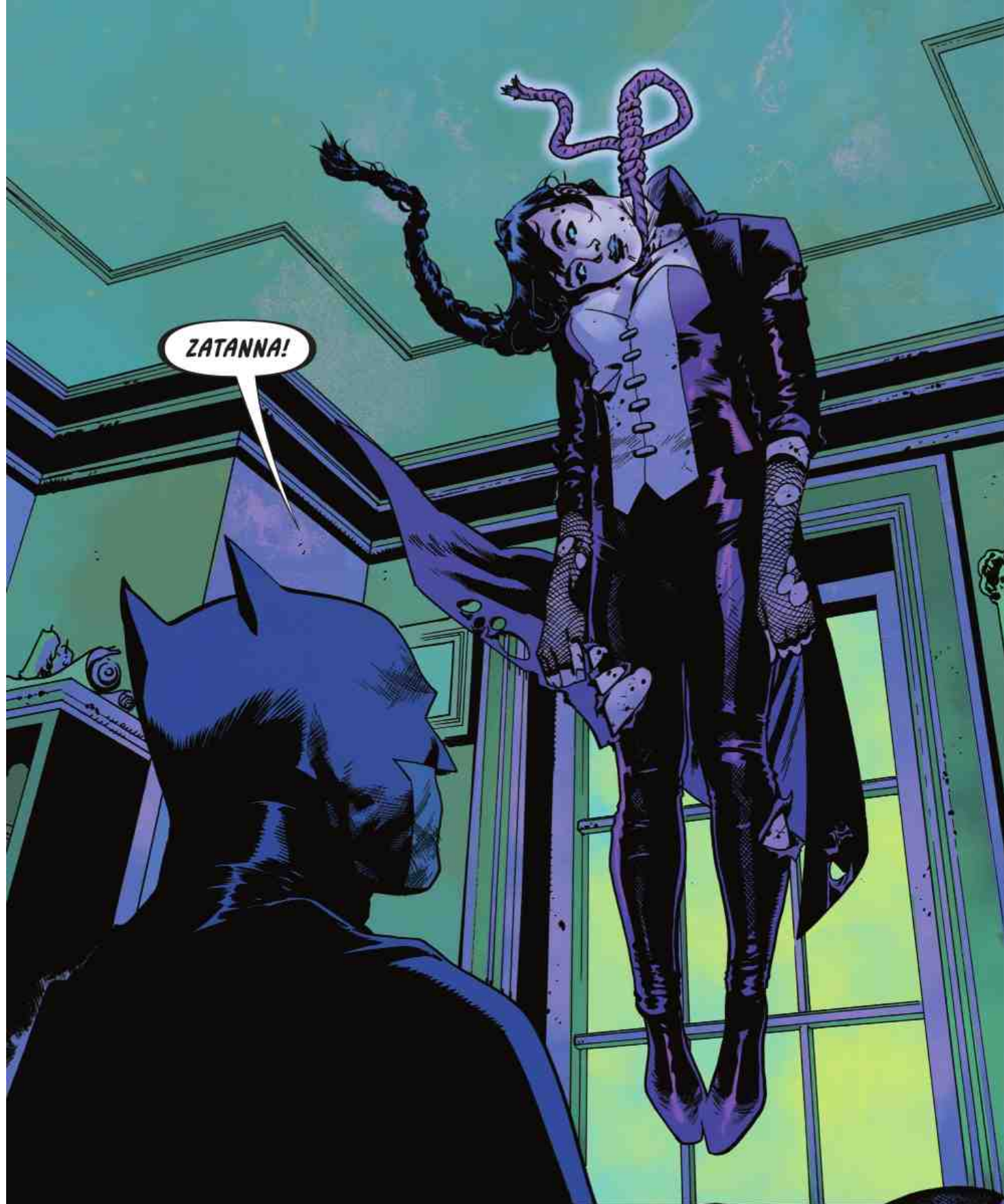
IT WAS A
GIFT FROM
ZATANNA.



THE YOUNG LADY
WHOSE SPELLS
ARE SPOKEN
BACKWARDS.

THE **SAME.**
WITH THIS IN HAND,
ALL DOORS OPEN
DIRECTLY INTO
HER **HOME.**





ZATANNA!



HELLO,
BRUCE.



"THIS...SUPERCHARGED
MAGIC STORM CAME FOR
ME WHILE IN COMBAT WITH
THE DRAGON FAERIES OF
ORENDYYA."

NEDLOG
YREAF, NRUB
OT HSA!

NEDLOG
YREAF,
NRUB OT HSA

WHAT...?

GNAH FLESRUOY

GNAH FLESRUOY

NO...

...NO NO
NO NO
NO...

GNAH FLESRUOY

SNAP





IT WILL
TAKE YOU TO
A SECLUDED
PLACE NEW
TO YOU.



THE PLACE THAT
KEEPS *ALL SECRETS*.
THERE, YOU MAY LEARN
EXACTLY WHAT
DAMIAN DID.



"BUT, BRUCE...BE
CAREFUL. THE JOURNEY
IS FRAUGHT WITH PERIL.

"THERE ARE DARK FORCES
IN MOTION MORE INSIDIOUS
THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE."



THESE
ARE *TRINKETS*.
PLAYTHINGS.

IF I'M TO
TOPPLE *THE BATMAN*,
I REQUIRE *GREATER*
RESOURCES.

YOU *OWE* ME
THAT MUCH. HOW
ELSE BUT THROUGH
ME...



...WOULD
MOTHER SOUL
HAVE MET THE
DEVIL NEZHA?

NEXT:
THE HOUSE
OF SECRETS

TIM SALE

1956-2022



T9

Tim Sale left us on June 16, 2022. We were two kids who started out on DC's *Challengers of the Unknown* and over the next 30 years, he took my stories for *Batman* and *Superman* and others and made them magical. He told stories in a way that it all seemed breezy but was anything but that. It was his gift.

His artwork was about creating atmosphere through shadows and angles and expression and believe it or not, desks.

He drew the best desks--desks that told you what the character valued like if Tim was an art director in a film. He loved comics, baseball, the Beatles, old movies, music, noir, food, his dogs, his fans, and most of all, the love of his life, Suzy. He was kind and funny and an inspiration as to how to live one's life.

I miss you, my pal.

JEPH LOEB

I've never met an artist as talented, skilled, smart, and charming as Tim. We spent a million hours talking about Norman Rockwell, Alex Toth, Ichiro, and Creedence Clearwater Revival. A *Master* storyteller, Tim Sale's art and life were a wonder to behold.

MARK CHIARELLO

Tim was not only a consummate artist and innovative creator, he was also, above all, a sensitive, kind, and loyal friend.

If you ever talked to him in person, or on the phone, you knew him to be thoughtful and considerate and always genuinely interested in what you had to say. He always had time for fans and fellow professionals alike, and when he found out I was going to be alone in a new state on my birthday in 2018, he flew out from Seattle to Chattanooga to hang out and eat Mexican food together.

That is the Tim I will miss most of all.

RICHARD STARKINGS

Tim Sale was an amazing artist, draftsman, and storyteller.

He had that special kind of talent you encounter once in a generation. I'm convinced his work stood out because he was simply fearless. He didn't care that his work looked different from the mainstream house styles. Beyond the taut chiaroscuro style which became his trademark, Tim clearly put a premium on storytelling, clarity, and pacing--cherishing emotion above all.

His stories were beautifully visceral and nuanced and evinced deep humanity. Tim simply had no use for surface banality. He was such a sweet, kind, and good-natured soul. I feel fortunate to have called him a friend and will miss him beyond words.

JIM LEE

CELEBRATE THREE DECADES OF THE MAID OF MISCHIEF!



VARIANT COVERS BY

Frank CHO • Lee BERMEJO • J. Scott CAMPBELL
Amanda CONNER • Terry DODSON • Adam HUGHES • Jerome OPEÑA
Stjepan ŠEJIC • Bruce TIMM • Stanley "ARTGERM" LAU

MAIN COVER BY Amanda CONNER



THE PARTY BEGINS
IN SEPTEMBER



HARLEY QUINN

30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



A KILLER 96-PAGE SPECIAL

A PRESTIGE FORMAT ONE-SHOT

WRITTEN BY

Amanda CONNER • Jimmy PALMIOTTI • Paul DINI
Stephanie PHILLIPS • Stjepan ŠEJIC • Sam HUMPHRIES
Kami GARCIA • Rob WILLIAMS • Mindy LEE
Terry DODSON • Cecil CASTELLUCCI • Rafael SCAVONE

ART BY

Chad HARDIN • Guillem MARCH • Riley ROSSMO
Stjepan ŠEJIC • Erica HENDERSON • Jason BADOWER
Mico SUAYAN • John TIMMS • Terry DODSON
Rachel DODSON • Dan HIPPI • Rafael ALBUQUERQUE

TRIBUTE TO FORMER DC EXECUTIVE EDITOR

PAT McCALLUM



Photo credit: Steve Cook

"I've worked with many smart, talented people in my tenure at DC, but I've never met anyone with the full-on passion for comics of Pat McCallum. He just *loved* them, down to his core—and the only thing he wanted, every single day that he woke up and came into the DC offices (often early, and leaving late), was to *get it right*. Nobody I've ever known worked harder to get the books *right*, to interrogate every choice, to ask, 'Does this measure up to the absolute best of the medium?' Even when we disagreed—including weeks-long running disputes—I always knew I was talking with someone whom I deeply respected, because his heart was so kind and our goals were the same: comic books that delighted people. That, for the folks who work here, is the real never-ending battle. I'll always love and be grateful to Pat for the faith and trust he put in me, which made me the editor I am today."

—DC Group Editor Chris Conroy

"Pat McCallum was a driving force behind my love of comics. I consumed *Wizard* throughout my youth because each issue made me feel like a part of the wondrous world of comics. Creating the *DC Nation* magazine with him felt like a full-circle moment. Pat's goal was to open the door behind the scenes at DC and make the reader feel like a part of the magic. But it didn't end with the magazine. Whether it was pranking me with a hidden toy spider or getting me to dress up like Comet the Super-Horse for a pitch, he always had a way of embodying the fun of working in comics. Pat taught me to always express that joy and to share it with everyone. It's the greatest lesson I've ever learned."

—DC Editor Andrew Marino

"On my first day at DC, I had lunch with Pat McCallum. I was the new guy...but Pat was very familiar. I knew him as the force behind *Wizard* magazine, which I worshipped growing up. *Wizard* was a *home* for people like me—a clubhouse where we could laugh and *never* feel alone. That first meal was not the last. Every weekend we got together with friends to share dinner, games, and laughs. Pat welcomed me with a warm smile and a sense of belonging. Just like *Wizard*... wherever Pat went he created a home. A sanctuary of shared experience. As I wrote in my last Christmas card to him: 'You're a great boss. And a greater friend.' Thank you for making me feel at home."

—DC Group Editor Paul Kaminski

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics ANNE DePIES Senior VP - General Manager JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer DON FALLETTI VP - Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP - Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP - Manufacturing & Operations JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP - Editorial Strategy & Programming NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP - Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP - Revenue

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

